Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and work to the top.

Change the 1st letter

Change the last letter

Change the 3rd letter

Change last two letters

FISH

a male ruler

a bird has two

First one to cross the finish line ____!

fake hair, plural

alongside someone

to hope for something

can live in the ocean
Scrambled Seas

Unscramble each word. Write the underlined letter on the corresponding line to read the secret message.

12 3 10 8 9 1 11 2 5 7 6 4

1. phis
2. sojan
3. upennte
4. trkyssa
5. lalaiere
6. cleacken
7. morst
8. admerim
9. shegaq
10. ellyrjlol
11. pandik
12. umhan

The Little Mermaid

Would you rather be a human or a mermaid? Give at least two reasons to support your answer.

I would rather be a ____________ than a ____________ because ____________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________
Before the Play:
1. Talk with your child(ren) about attending a live performance and how it differs from watching television at home or going to the movies. Try to help them understand what it means when there are others who want to see, hear, and enjoy the play. Let the children know that they will be able to meet the actors after the show. (CC.16.2.2.C)
2. *The Little Mermaid* is a fairy tale written by the Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen. It was first published in 1837. Children are now familiar with the animated movie. Read the original tale and talk with the children about the different settings and characters. Is the original different than the movie? How might the play differ from both? Why do you think the tale has lasted almost 200 years? (CC1.3.2.H)
3. Have you ever wanted something very badly? What would you be willing to give up in order to have it? Discuss. (CC.1.5.2.A)
4. What sea animals are you familiar with? Think about whales, dolphins, sharks, clown fish, and seahorses. Which might be a king of the ocean? Which one might be a mean character or a faithful friend? If you were creating a story about sea animals what character trait might you give to each type of animal? Why?
5. Draw a picture of what you visualize when you think of the ocean setting of this play. (CC.1.5.2.G)

After the Play:
1. Make a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting Ariella's underwater world and Prince Jason's world on land. Draw pictures of both to help. Write sentences or paragraphs to describe each setting. (CC.1.3.2.G)
2. Studying *The Little Mermaid* is a great opportunity for an author study. Hans Christian Andersen also wrote other popular fairy tales like *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *Thumbelina*. Read some of Andersen's other stories. Which would you like to see adapted into a movie or play? Why do you think so? (CC.1.3.2.H)
3. Teach the idiom - a fish out of water. Sometimes we can feel like this when we're ready for a new challenge. Do you think Ariella felt like a fish out of water? Use evidence from the story or play to support your answer. Have you ever felt like a fish out of water when you were ready for a change in your life? What is something you can do when you feel like this? Try something new, like a sport or activity? Make a new friend? Take on more responsibility? (CC.1.3.2.I)
4. There are many different beliefs about mermaids around the world. The Irish used to believe that on St. Patrick's Day, old women were turned into mermaids and went to live in the sea. Below are some of the names given to mermaids in different cultures. Research some of the beliefs about mermaids in these cultures. How far would you need to travel to get to each of these mermaids' homelands? Order the distances from least to greatest. (CC.2.1.2.B.1, CC.7.1.2.A)
   - Selkie - Scotland
   - Miranda - England
   - Rusalka - Russia
   - Udine - Italy
   - Artemis - Greece
   - Mama Alo - the Caribbean
5. Review the characteristics of a fairy tale - kind character, evil character, setting, royalty, talking animals, problem, magic, reward. Identify each of those elements in the play you just saw. (CC.1.3.2.B)
6. Make your bedroom or classroom ceiling look like it's under the sea! With the help of an adult, make handprint fish by applying paint to your hand. Press your hand firmly onto paper and try to remove without smudging. When it dries, add an eye, decorate, and hang from your ceiling. Make your own Jelly Roll by decorating an upside down paper bowl or shower cap. Attach matching ribbons to the belly. Or make an octopus by inflating colored balloons and decorating. Add googly eyes and get creative with the tentacles. Consider using recycled materials like cardboard, fabric, or plastic toys. Take a photograph of your underwater ceiling and share it with us at ________________. (CC.AL.3.2.C)
7. Describe one of the actor's performances and discuss how that performance added to your enjoyment of the show. Describe the costumes and sets. How did they help to create the world of the story? (CC.1.3.2.G)
8. Adjectives are words that describe nouns - persons, places, and things. Think of the characters in *The Little Mermaid*. What adjectives might you use to describe each (caring, determined, deceptive, loyal)? Write a letter to one of those characters. Let them know what you noticed about them and why. Feel free to send us your letter. We love receiving them! (CC1.4.2.A, CC1.4.2.E)